country, and the third connecting the capital with Nagercoil, the second biggest town in the State.

21. Anchal.—As you are aware, a good many reforms have recently been effected with a view to improve the working of the State postal service. Motor transport has replaced the ordinary runners' service on all the main roads and the transport of mails has been considerably expedited. The advantages of this improvement are reflected in the satisfactory increase in the number of covers and valuable articles posted and of hundies issued. Reciprocity has been introduced between Travancore and Cochin in regard to the issue of value-payable hundies. The salaries of the staff have been recently revised and improved and all possible retrenchments effected. Although certain rates of postage had to be slightly raised, care has been taken to maintain the charges at an appreciably lower level than the British Indian postage. The Anchal Superintendent is being deputed to Madras to study the working of the British postal system, both on the administrative and account sides, with a view to further improve the efficiency of his department.

22. Medical Relief.—Since the appointment of Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan as the head of the Medical Department, a great deal has been done towards improving the tone and efficiency of the department. An Assistant Surgeon has this year been deputed to England with a State scholarship for a period of two years for study in diseases and injuries to the eye. He has also been directed to undergo training in advanced surgery. Another Assistant Surgeon has proceeded on a year's study leave to specialise in diseases affecting the nose, the ear and the throat, and on his return he will be posted to the General Hospital for carrying on that branch of the work. In order to give an up-to-date training to the older officers of the department, arrangements have been made for their being transferred by turns to the General Hospital where they will work both in the in-patient and the out-patient wards and provided with opportunities, in the clinical laboratory, of studying, applying and practising the latest methods adopted in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases. A new system of testing the work of officers in the mofussil has been introduced, under which every officer is obliged to furnish a running record of the treatment of each important case to the Darbar Physician, thereby enabling the latter to correct mistakes and issue timely instructions. All medical officers have been directed to give regular courses of lectures to their subordinate staff and to the public on infection, contagion, antiseptics, disinfection, and the prevention of diseases caused by germs. A Bacteriologist has been newly appointed and has been deputed to Madras and Kasauli to undergo a course of special training in pathology and bacteriology respectively. Considerable improvements and extensions to the General Hospital are in contemplation with a view to bring that institution up to the level of a modern hospital. With a view to minimise the ravages of tuberculosis, Government have sanctioned, at the instance of the Darbar Physician, the opening of a ward in each of the larger hospitals for the admission and care of the more advanced cases, and plans are maturing for the establishment, on up-to-date lines, of a sanatorium in South Travancore for the admission and treatment of all early cases. In the Leper Asylum, Trivandrum, the latest method of treatment by means of injections has been introduced with encouraging results. Two separate wards for the segregation and care of the untainted children of leper patients have been recently constructed. Orders have also issued for the amendment of the Lepers Regulation with a view to take power to compel lepers to go into the Asylum. A scheme is under contemplation for carrying on special research work in regard to the diseases peculiar to Travancore. And lastly, in view of the increasing demand for trained nurses both in hospitals and private houses, a class for the training of nurses has been opened.

23. Ayurveda.—The Department of Ayurveda has also made considerable progress since its reorganisation in 1093. During 1095, the two private Patasalas at Changankulangara in Central Travancore and Ettumanur in North Travancore were recognised as grant-in-aid institutions. The sum of Rs. 10,000 provided in the budget for that year under debt head, for the cost of the preparation of medicines in

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the Ayurveda Pharmacy, had to be raised to Rs. 22,000, to meet the increased demand for Ayurvedic medicines and the larger consumption of them at the hospital. The Pharmacy and the Patasala are proposed to be strengthened by the appointment of additional hands. An Inspector of Ayurveda will also be appointed to exercise effective supervision over the grant-in-aid institutions which, for want of such supervision, are often found to be doing really nothing.

24. Public Health.—Correct vital statistics are an unerring index of public health, but the arrangements now in force for the registration of vital statistics are very defective. Compulsory registration is provided for only in the case of Municipal towns, and the returns from rural areas leave considerable room for improvement. A Bill is now before the Legislative Council for making registration compulsory in these areas, and there is no doubt that the figures of births and deaths will show a better approximation to the accepted standards when that Bill passes into law. In regard to the prevention and cure of epidemic diseases, especially cholera, a new scheme has been recently sanctioned by Government, under which it is proposed to train six medical officers in the preventive and curative treatment of cholera, small-pox, typhoid, influenza, plague and other diseases which break out in an epidemic form and in recording and maintaining notes of interesting and valuable cases. The trained officers will, during ordinary times, be attached to hospitals in the more important towns, but on the outbreak of an epidemic, they will form themselves into a brigade and do intensive team work under proper supervision, with a view to eradicate the disease promptly and prevent its spread to other places. In view to improving the teaching of hygiene Higher Grade Vernacular Schools where it forms an optional branch of study, it is in contemplation to send batches of twenty teachers from the Training Schools for a course of training in hygiene in the Medical Department for a period of three months. It has also been resolved to educate the masses in the principles of health, personal hygiene and sanitation, by instituting branches of the Trivandrum Public Lecture Committee at taluk headquarters and by arranging for simple standardised lectures thereon in the vernaculars being read and illustrated by magic lantern slides under the auspices of those branches. The services of teachers will be largely utilised in this work.

25. Education.—Travancore is justly proud of her achievements in the domain of education. There is no other part of India which can boast of a higher percentage of literacy except perhaps the neighbouring State of Cochin. The benefits of this wide extension of education are reflected in the general advance of the people of the country in intelligence, in their capacity to profit by the changes around them, and in their desire to assume a large share of public and civic responsibilities. This remarkable spread of literacy in the country has, however, not been an unmixed blessing. The education imparted in the State has shared, in common with the rest of India, the general defect of being far too bookish and literary, and not sufficiently practical or vocational. The superficial extension of education has been so great and rapid that the quality of the material has necessarily suffered, and the problem that now faces the Government, as I dare say it does the public, is how to consolidate the gains of the past, while eschewing the evils that have followed in their wake, and above all, how to give a practical turn to the whole movement. It is common knowledge that the present lop-sided advancement of education in this country has only served to bring into existence a large body of young men who have become dissatisfied with their old environment and time-honoured pursuits and have developed a feeling of disappointment at the loss of their cherished hopes of getting Government employment. These young men have not the patience or the insight to see—little blame to them—that in the very nature of things it is impossible for Government to provide executive, ministerial, or clerical appointments for all of them. The question of imparting vocational instruction, so as to enable the generality of these youths to earn an honest and independent livelihood, is one of supreme importance to the State at the present juncture. Two Committees have sat over this question and the allied questions of educational curricula and finance and have submitted their recommendations, and Government hope to take up their reports for early consideration at a conference of educational experts and those interested in the problem, both official and

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